

UNGOVERNED TEMPERS.

IT seems sometimes when we read the weekly list of crime, as though the devil had received a new licence to walk to and fro over the earth. It makes the thoughtful heart intensely sad to hear of deeds of blood, committed now by old men, and again by mere children, lads with the smooth, unshaved lip of early youth. What is the world coming to, we sigh; and still we hug to ourselves the pleasant illusion that none of this darkness and desolation can ever touch our own sheltered circles. Our homes are safe. Our darlings will never stain hands or hearts with sins so vile as those the papers tell of, and the dear one who said his prayers last night at our lap will never wear the brand of CAIN.

Well, we will trust in God that we are safe. God has promised to be a defence about the habitations of His people. But He has given us our share to do, as parents, as citizens, as Church members, and as parts of society. Our children must be taught self-control. We must practise it in their presence. We must hold in check the hasty word, the unbridled gesture, and the craving appetite. As early as may be, we must let the boys and girls begin to feel a responsibility for themselves. The government which fails to train a human being so that he can to some extent engineer his own soul, is not parental but despotic government. "Down brakes!" yourself when you are going too fast, and let all about you see that you have yourself in hand. Example, steady and consistent, will help more powerfully than precept in the training of the young.

SYSTEMATIC EFFORT.

PRESIDENT FINNEY once said: "I believe the connection between the right use of means to save sinners and the accomplishment of that important end is as sure as between the right use of the means to raise grain and the certainty of harvest. I have seldom seen failure when a church has used the means for promoting a revival in earnest; but I have often seen success under circumstances the most forbidding conceivable."

If any feel disposed to doubt the truth of this, we think the results of the past year must set such doubt at rest. Every earnest effort has invariably been crowned with success, and thousands to-day, all over Christendom, are rejoicing in the peace and grace of the Gospel because the Church utilised aright the right means for their salvation. The earnest, simple, primitive effort, loving faith and zeal from a loving heart going out zealously after the souls of men, brought down the Pentecostal blessing. System and method tell, even in Christian work. Order is God's first law; and the Church is at last, we believe, beginning to appreciate rightly its value and force. The revival spirit is still alive in our churches, and if, with the recent lesson of the past, we will now push on our efforts with increased systematic endeavour and with united harmonious co-operation, we shall see such a revival of Christian graces in the Church, such an ingathering of sinners into the fold, and such an outpouring of the Divine Spirit as the world has never witnessed in all its previous history. "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour out to you a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

JUDICIOUS PRAISE.

NO heart is insensible to words of praise, or the kindly smile of approbation; and none are utterly above being affected by censure or blame. Children are particularly sensitive in this respect. Nothing can discourage a child more than a spirit of incessant fault-finding; and perhaps nothing can exert a more baneful influence upon both parent and child. If your little one, through the day, has been pleasant and obedient, and you say to him, "My son, you have been good to-day, and it makes me very happy"; and if, with a more than usually affectionate embrace, you say, "Good night, my dear child," a throb of suppressed feelings fills his breast, and he resolves on always earning such approval. If your grown son, or daughter, have accomplished some difficult piece of work, rendering you essential assis-

tance; or have climbed some steep in the daily drill of study; or have acquired some new accomplishment, or added grace; or, better than all, have gained the victory over some bad habit or besetting sin—acknowledge it, see it, praise them for it. Let them see, by your added tenderness, the deep joy and comfort it gives you. Thus you will create a great incentive to right conduct, and lay a broad foundation for a character which shall be redolent of succulent fruit and fragrant blossoms.

KIND WORDS.

KIND words are easily and quickly spoken; they neither burn nor blast, and we have never heard of any mental trouble arising from them. Though they do not cost much, yet they accomplish much. They help one's own good nature and goodwill. Soft words soften our own soul. Angry words are fuel to the flames of wrath, and make them blaze more fiercely.

Kind words make other people good-natured. Cold words freeze people, and hot words scorch them, and bitter words make them bitter, and wrathful words make them wrathful. There is such a rush of all other words in our days, that it seems desirable to give kind words a chance among them. There are vain words, and idle words, and hasty words, and spiteful words, and silly words, and empty words, and boisterous words, and warlike words. Kind words also produce their own image in men's souls. And a beautiful image it is. They soothe, and quiet, and comfort the hearer. They shame him out of his sour, morose, unkind feelings. We have not yet begun to use kind words in such abundance as they ought to be used.—Pascal.

WORDS TO PREACHERS.

All apologies are founded in self-deception or pride. Move directly to your subject; the sooner you get at the main idea the better.

One telling illustration is better than a dozen, even if each of the dozen is quite strong.

Let the subject be of such importance as to invest you with an inspiration until the closing sentence.

Encourage rather than scold.

Do not make many points; two or three well insisted on will be longer remembered than half-a-dozen.

Never think of yourself, but of a soul saved or lost and Calvary.

Have only two or three headings and one application—clear, short, and to the point, so that it may still be ringing in the ears of the people as they are dispersing.

If you cannot preach from a text without an intimation that a different translation would improve it, select some other passage, or a different subject.

Feel that this sermon may be your last.

Let the thought of self pass in, and the beauty of a great action is gone, like the bloom from a soiled flower.—Selected.

A HINT TO MOTHERS.

"I CANNOT understand," said a discouraged mother, the other day, "why my children are so much worse than those of other people. I am always correcting their faults, always telling them what not to do."

And there was just the trouble. Nothing is worse than to be continually reproving children, continually lecturing them on general principles, saying over and over, "Never do this. Never do that"; till the best children are bewildered and made rebels in spite of their own intentions. When a little one makes a mistake, set that special mistake right; but beware of legislating for a lifetime to people less than ten years old. We are often responsible for children's naughtiness because we forget that children have rights. The mother who is unfailingly polite herself to her little ones, will be repaid by their good manners. But the loud tone, the quick emphasis, the arbitrary speech, will be repeated by the second generation with inevitable accuracy, and the mother will be ashamed of it.